Collocations in e-lexicography: lessons from Human Computer Interaction research"

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Collocations in e-lexicography: lessons from Human Computer Interaction research

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Workshop on collocations: Collocations in Lexicography: existing solutions and future challenges

30 September 2019

Chairs: Iztok Kosem, Jožef Stefan Institute & University of Ljubljana; Polona Gantar, University of Ljubljana

The presentation of collocations in electronic lexicographic resources has seen great advances over the last couple of decades. Early implementations such as *Collins COBUILD Collocations on CD-ROM* (Sinclair, 1995) were essentially concordancers with statistical information. More recently, paper-based collocation dictionaries for learners like the *Oxford Collocations Dictionary* (McIntosh, Francis, & Poole, 2009) and *Longman Collocations Dictionary and Thesaurus* (Longman, 2013) have online versions that benefit from some of the advantages of the medium. In addition, there are easy-access online tools that extract raw collocation data from corpora such as the FLAX project (led by Ian Witten) and Word Sketches in SkELL (Baisa & Suchomel, 2014). These developments represent improvements in user-friendliness and overall user experience. However, their effective use still requires training. This lies in contrast to developments in user interface design in general where the application of concepts and techniques from Human Computer Interaction (HCI) research has led to intuitive tools which offer a smooth user experience with little or no prior training required.

We begin this paper with several concepts and techniques from HCI that have proven useful to us in the development of ColloCaid: a text editor aimed at helping writers with academic English collocations (Frankenberg-Garcia, Lew, Roberts, Rees, & Sharma, 2019). Next, we report on explicit feedback on a beta version of ColloCaid provided by users of academic English, including a first-hand account of ColloCaid's usability measured against the widely used System Usability Scale (Brooke 1996). We end the session with a reflection on the embedding of computation in everyday objects and devices, and the interesting parallels this raises with collocation resources integrated with text editors which require little or no prior training to use.

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